

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00122 211759Z

65

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 PA-02 PRS-01

USIA-15 /053 W

----- 008768

R 211730Z MAY 76

FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 636

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS QUEBEC 0122

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT,EAIR,CA

SUBJECT: GOQ SUPPORTS FRANCOPHONE AIR CONTROLLERS DESIRE
WORK IN FRENCH.

REF: OTTAWA T-1934 AND PREVIOUS.

1. SOLICITOR-GENERAL AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR OFFICIAL LANGUAGE ACT FERNAND LALONDE, SPEAKING IN THE NAME OF GOQ, HAS FORMALLY ENDORSED THE BATTLE OF FRANCOPHONE AIR CONTROLLERS TO COMMUNICATE IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGE WITH FRENCH SPEAKING PILOTS FLYING OVER QUEBEC. LALONDE TOLD A MAY 20 QUEBEC CITY NEWS CONFERENCE THAT HE DECIDED TO SPEAK OUT ON ISSUE TO BALANCE PRESSURE ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM CANADIAN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL ASSOCIATION, WHICH IS THREATENING TO STRIKE NEXT MONDAY AGAINST USE OF FRENCH. LALONDE ADDED THAT RACISM IS THE ONLY EXPLANATION FOR ATTEMPTS TO SUPPRESS BILINGUAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL. HE REJECTED CLAIMS THAT BILINGUAL CONTROL IS UNSAFE.

2. COMMENT: SEVERAL GOQ MIDDLE-LEVEL BUREAUCRATS HAVE TOLD US RECENTLY THAT THE GOQ WAS NOT INTERESTED IN THE AIR CONTROLLER LANGUAGE PROBLEM AS IT WAS CLEARLY IN FEDERAL DOMAIN AND WELL OUTSIDE COMPETENCE OF BILL 22. HOWEVER,
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AS LALONDE INDICATED, TOP ECHELON OF GOQ OBVIOUSLY FEELS

THAT IT CAN NO LONGER REMAIN INDIFFERENT IN THIS
EMOTION-CHARGED MATTER EVEN IF IT IS WITHIN FEDERAL
JURISDICTION. LALONDE GAVE HIS SUPPORT TO THE CONTROLLERS
IN THE NAME OF QUEBEC'S OFFICIAL LANGUAGE ACT, CLAIMING
THE OPEN QUOTES ACT MUST BE INFLUENTIAL EVEN WITHIN FIELDS
OF FEDERAL AUTHORITY. CLOSE QUOTES
GARLAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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04 MAY 2006

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To: STATE
OTTAWA
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